

REMARKS

Applicants canceled claims 1, 3-8, 10-15, 19-22, 24, and 27-44; and added new claims 45-77. As suggested by the Examiner in the Advisory Action mailed February 26, 2004, Applicants amended the identifier for claim 23 from "Previously Amended" to "Previously Presented".

All the claims that were rejected in the Office Action mailed October 2, 2003, have been canceled. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the canceled claims in one or more continued applications.

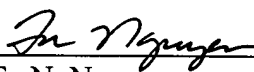
The new claims depend from claim 23, 25, or 26, which the Examiner indicated as allowed. As a result, the new claims are patentable for at least the same reasons that the independent claims are patentable. Accordingly, the claims are in condition for allowance, which action is requested.

If this matter can be expedited, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned representative.

Enclosed is a Petition for Extension of Time with the required fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 30, 2004

  
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